DEMAND XVII—PORTS.

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 21,694 under Demand XVII—Ports.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 21,694 under Demand XVII—Ports was put and carried.

The motion was passed and the grant was made.

DEMANDS XVIII & XIX.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, Demand No. XVIII & XIX relating to education may be grouped together for purposes of discussion.

The motion was put and carried.

DEMAND XVIII.—EDUCATION—GOVERNMENT GRANT TO THE TRAVANCORE UNIVERSITY.

Rajyasevapravina C. V. Chandrasekharan (*Pro-Vice Chancellor*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 9,27,000 under Demand XVIII—Education—Government Grant to the Travancore University.

DEMAND XIX.—EDUCATION EXCLUDING GRANT TO THE TRAVANCORE UNIVERSITY.

Mr. A. Gopala Menon: Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 49,30,106 under Demand XIX—Education excluding Grant to the Travancore University.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai: Sir, I support the Demand. In doing so, I wish to point out the desirability of restoring the Professorships in Malayalam and Sanskrit languages. These two branches of studies are not given any importance by the authorities though there is the Honours course. I understand that all other branches of studies, are represented by Professors even though there is no Honours course for Philosophy, Botany and Zoology. I am rather disappointed to find that this state of affairs continues in a University which is directed and controlled by eminent men who have got a partiality for oriental learning and culture. The honourable member, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, had stated elsewhere the reasons for not restoring Sanskrit and Malayalam Chairs. The main reason alleged was that after the demise of the late lamented Professor Raja Raja Varma, no competent men are found to occupy that place. I am very much surprised to hear that reply from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University. I humbly ask the Pro-Vice-Chancellor whether he is completely satisfied with the position and attainments of the Professors of other branches of studies. Sir, I am aware that in other departments also there is dearth of outstanding personalities. Could any one with any amount of propriety say that this college is staffed at present with Professors who could

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

be favourably compared with Professors Sloss, Rangaswamy Iyengar the Pro-Vice-Chancellor himself, Gopala Menon and Sundaram Pillai who were all former Professors of this College. By this, I do not mean any disparagement to the present incumbents of these departments. What I wish to point out is that it is not possible to find eminent men always. But there is no reason why these places should be kept vacant. Sir, in this connection, I wish to point out that in the case of Malayalam language there may not be any difficulty, because the man who is in charge of this department is known to me as an eminent author of malayalam books and as a great scholar. I am aware that the University had advertised for a Professor of Sanskrit and a person has been selected from outside the State. If he is really competent, why not he be appointed as Professor of Sanskrit in the University College? Again, I fail to understand the criterion for the appointment of a Professor. I ask the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, what is the necessary qualification of a Professor. Is it a candidate's University degree or his other learned activities such as publication of books essays, etc.? If that be the case I think there are very many persons who are eminently fitted and competent to be appointed as Professors in Sanskrit and Malayalam languages. Anyhow, it is a pity to keep these places vacant till a man of the eminence of Professor Raja Raja Varma happens to be secured. Professor Bradly was a great Shakespeare and scholar. He was Professor of Oxford. It is an admitted fact that after him no other scholar can be pointed out as his equal. Yet there are professors engaged in teaching Shakespeare. Under the circumstances, I request Government and the University authorities to reconsider this question and fill up these places as soon as possible.

Another point that I wish to bring to the notice of the authorities is about the library attached to the University College. I understand the library is still at Thycaud and it is inconvenient for students and the staff to make use of that library. Hence I would request the authorities to shift that library as early as possible to the University College.

Another point I wish to suggest is that about the Marine Department of the University.

President: You mean the business side of the Fisheries?

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai: Yes, Sir. As regards the Education Department I wish to point out one or two things, especially about the lot of the aided school teachers. Their condition is not at all enviable. They lead a hand to mouth existence. At present there is nobody to look after their affairs. The Government and the Department have shifted the burden of helping these

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. A. Easwara Pillai.]

teachers in this critical time, on the managers. It is wrong to consider that the managers are philanthropists. I am not of the opinion that they conduct the schools as a commercial concern. On the other hand some people out of local or by other reason, had taken into their head to start educational institutions. Sir, at one time there was a great urge for increasing literacy in the country. Travancore people are prone to take such occasional enthusiasm and Government also at that time encouraged them. Then the policy of the Department was to make the people cent per cent literate. The Government encouraged people to start schools. It is not fair to say now that they are commercially minded and conducting the schools for profiteering. These managers have never thought that by conducting schools they can amass wealth. On the other hand they have to invest decent amounts in the construction of buildings, equipments and appliances. If at all they get any profit it will not be commensurate with the outlay required for conducting these institutions. In fact this is more or less a social work. The other day the President announced that the managers will be asked to give additional emoluments to these grant-in-aid school teachers.

President: What was stated was that the Government were only too much alive to the difficulties of these teachers and if the management show to the Government that they are not able to pay the teachers decently the Government will not hesitate to supplement what the managers give. It was further stated that the object of Government was to see that the teachers were actually being paid what they were supposed to be paid and that if the managers would agree the Government would also agree to see that the payment is distributed to the teachers direct.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai: Sir, I am only referring to the teachers of Primary Schools. In their case the managers are helpless. The vast majority of the managers of Primary Schools are teacher-managers. They are not given any additional grant for the upkeep of the institutions. On the other hand the grant given is intended to pay the teachers. This is personal in nature. It was true that these poor teachers were deprived of their pay by the managers. But now on account of the insistence of the Department they are compelled to disburse the grant regularly to the teachers. Now in fact managers get nothing. The complaints of the teachers are heard by the authorities as well as the general public. The managers are not in the habit of complaining. So they were condemned. I say they were unjustly condemned—as a sort of depredators. Therefore what I submit is that the case of the poor teacher-managers must be considered by the Government. I also request that Government must sympathetically consider the case of grant-in-aid teachers and they must be helped at this time, by giving liberal allowances.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. P. R. Godavarma Raja : Sir, it is with very great pleasure that I support the idea suggested by Mr. Easwara Pillai. He suggested the appointment of Professors for Sanskrit and Malayalam in our University. Sir, we are very proud that this University is bent upon scientific research more than anything else. It is a great pleasure to know that you, Sir, have given more prominance to scientific research. We are all living in an age of science, when science predominates everything else. But I wish to urge that our indigenous culture and literature should not be thrown away merely for the sake of scientific progress. It is a sorry feature that the importance of Malayalam literature and Malayalam language is not recognised as much as it ought to be. The day before yesterday I had occasion to read in a newspaper the report of an address by the honourable Sir, Sultan Ahmed with regard to publication of news in aid of war effort. Therein I found that the news reels are proposed to be produced only in five languages, viz., in English, Bengali, Hindustani, Telugu and Tamil. Sir, it is up to you and the Government to urge the cause of our language before the Central Government. Malayalam has a history as much as Tamil or Telugu. We have a very rich literature. We shall be very proud of the fact that we have a very good literature. It is also a sorry feature that in Malayalam we have not got cinemas or talkies as in Tamil. This is due to the fact that Malayalam speaking area is included in three administrative Divisions viz, British India; (Malabar), Cochin and Travancore. Due to this difficulty we are not having any co-ordinated policy in this matter. It is for Travancore to take the lead and give an impetus in the matter of promoting our language, literatare and culture.

Sir, the University has kept in abeyance the Professorship in Malayalam. The same thing has been done in regard to Sanskrit. Last year when I spoke about this, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor replied that when persons who were fit enough to occupy these places were available the question of filling these posts would be considered. I wish to draw the pointed attention of the University to this very important matter and hope that ere long the Chair for Sanskrit and Malayalam would be instituted.

With regard to the Library, I wish to say something. This University has taken under its control the Trivandrum Public Library. Till now the name is "Trivandrum Public Library." In the Administration Report of the University it is mentioned that the University is proposing to establish a University Library in addition to the Public Library.

President : The idea is that when the University buildings come into existence, they will comprise the University Library, a

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President]

theatre and various other appurtenances and therefore, as far as possible, the University Library will be brought into existence.

Mr. P. R. Goda Varma Raja : Sir, I am glad to note that. I only hope that the University Library will function ere long as an adjunct to the University.

Coming to the Educational Department, I must say it is high time that the whole question of the educational policy of the State is enquired into in view of the post-war problems that may arise. We had the Statham Committee Report, which gave valuable suggestions for the educational advancement of the State. Much water has flown under the bridge since then in regard to this matter. We find that in England even there is an idea of reorganising the educational policy. I therefore wish that the educational policy should be fully enquired into and revised so as to cope with the problems that may arise in the future.

Mr. Kochickkal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : Sir, I am not vain enough to believe that it is at my suggestion that an English Professor was appointed. Any way, I am bold enough to suggest that the man who has to teach King's English should be capable of teaching the intonation of English. I am glad that the University was able to find a professor. I rose to speak just to bring to the notice of the Government some kind of anonymus communications, certain letters, addressed to me wishing me to draw your attention to certain matters. The anonymus correspondant here relates to the status of Indian professors — whether they are in any manner affected by the appointment. I do not think there is any occasion for it.

President : The position is very simple. It is one thing to be a master of written English and be able to understand the works of Shakespeare. It is another thing to speak the English language. I had the misfortune of listening to persons who presumably talked in English but whom I could not follow ; and in an English audience they will have the fate of the important Bengali gentleman who spoke on English literature in faultless English. At the end of the lecture, a member of the audience rose up from the platform and said " How wonderful was your lecture— I wish you have spoken in English language !" I find from my own experience of Englishmen who come here on business ; when they meet our officials, our people will simply look at them without understanding what they say. There will be no such difficulty if teaching of English is done by the English men. There is no superiority in an Englishman because it is his own language. The same argument applies, for instance, to a European coming and talking Sunskrit here. When I started my studies in

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the Presidency College an English Professor of Sanskrit attempted to teach Kalidasa's 'Raghuvamsa'. He began with the words 'vag' 'vag' and at last pronounced the word "vagarthaviva". I do not blame him for it because it is not his language. The idea of appointing an Englishman as Professor of English is not only that he should be a Professor of English in the University College but that he should go down to various institutions in order to bring up the level of teaching of English in those institutions. I can assure the honourable members that no disparagement of anybody is intended.

Mr. Kochickkal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : I wish to speak a word about Malayalam and Sanskrit education also. So long as this House does not particularly request the University to expend more money on that there is not much in name.

Then about primary schools. I am glad to know that Government are taking steps to take up the primary schools. I do not wish to characterise all managers of primary schools.

President : Honourable members will realise that such remarks made to the Government form a less important problem than the secondary schools.

Mr. Kochickkal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: I mean there are some people who have invested a little money. There are others who have started local enterprises. I know instance of many people with commendable public-spiritedness, cut down a few trees from localities and collect funds sometimes with the help and kindness of the local officers. There was the co-operation of all the Government officers. Then the school will be started and slowly that school would transform itself into the private property of a particular person. Anyway those poor people have been making a living out of it. I am not unaware of the great sacrifice made in this connection by certain educational agencies and mostly Christian missionaries. But barring these, and barring a few public spirited men, the schools are the result of local enterprise. The fact remains that whatever the urgency of the schools may be, they are now run by a class of people who need help very badly, such help as these poor people who are called 'teachers' in those schools need. In taking up the schools my suggestion is that the Government, at least on humanitarian motives, should have in mind the fate of managers as well as the teachers.

Last year also I made suggestion. There is no meaning in saying that our education is free and all that, unless we can pay our teachers sufficiently. My suggestion is that fee should be imposed on the well-to-do people. Let text-books be given, let clothes

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. Kochikkal P. Balakrishnan Tampi]

be given to really poor people. If you are imposing a fee of one rupee on children of well-to-do people and pay it to the teachers who teach those children that will be a very wise course indeed. In spite of the sympathetic feeling of the Director of public Instruction to the primary school teachers, we will have to reckon with realities.

Rajyasevapravina C. V. Chandrasekharan: Is the honourable member aware that there is a provision in the Education Code for levying fees?

Mr. Kochickkai P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Coming back to the question of Government taking up primary schools, I would say that it is indeed a big one. The Government may very well start by taking up for the time being any particular area of any particular taluk. I suggest that it may spread over a number of years, so that at the end of a particular time, five or six year's programme, these primary schools--of varying designs and varying stages of disrepair might be taken up by the Government.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: Sir, I fully support the demand. Besides paying a glowing tribute to our great and distinguished Vice-Chancellor of whom we feel proud, I have nothing but praise to offer and appreciation to express to the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University and the Director of Public Instruction, two Veteran educationists of our State. I am one with my friend Mr. Tampi, in congratulating the University on the appointment of Mr. Papworth, an experienced and distinguished Professor of English of the Madras University, as the Professor of English of our University College with a view to raise and maintain the standard of English teaching. After the retirement of the great Professor Mr. J. Sloss under whom I had the opportunity to study, there was no Professer of English of such distinction, with the possible exception of Prefessor K. B. Ramanathan and our Pro-Vice-Chancellor who was for some time Professor of English. The development of the University has been making rapid strides and as soon as the new schemes which are on the anvil are pushed forward we are sure that both in the point of University education and secondary school education we shall maintain the highest position and standard in India. I wish to draw the attention of the Director of Public Instruction to a comparatively small matter which was brought to my notice a week ago. In page 192 of the Educational sheets of the Government Gazette dated the 12th January 1943 among the list of text-books approved by the Text Book Committee for the use of English schools, we find. "A Concise High School History of India 1707-to 1942" by Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai M. A. L. T., and another book "A Concise High School History of Great Briton and Ireland 1714 to 1942" both priced at 12 annas each. On page 326 of the Educational sheets of the Government Gazette dated the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

6th July 1943 there is a notification which sanctions the increase in the price of the text books by 25 per cent on condition that the reprint copy should be printed on white paper suitable to the standard or class to which the books are intended. We find the price of these books which I mentioned is noted as one rupee each and students have to purchase the same at that price.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: May I know the number of pages they contained ?

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: I do not know the number of pages.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Without knowing that, how is it possible for the honourable member to draw a conclusion ?

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: It is not a question of exorbitance. It is only a question of conformity with a Government notification.

Mr. A. Gopala Menon: Those two books referred to are the approved books and prescribed by the department.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: My information was that these books were also prescribed. Probably beyond being approved, they were also considered to be prescribed.

Mr. A. Gopala Menon: The Department is not concerned with the purchase of books approved. Both these books are useful for examination purposes. Teachers probably encourage their purchase also. But the Department does not concern itself with those books.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: It is a matter for verification.

One other matter I would mention here is the claim of the teachers in private schools. The claims of qualified and trained teachers of private schools may also be taken into consideration for appointment in departmental schools.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: I have observed a certain thing in the discussions here. The more we press for a certain thing, there seems to be a psychological reaction against the thing we have been asking for. At every Council meeting every member repeats the same thing again and again and I am doubtful if this repetition has produced a psychological reaction which is unfavourable. But I hope that will not be the result of the statements that were made here to-day.

I am very grateful to Government for the increasing interest which they are taking in education. In recent years, in Assemblies and Council, we have had announcements on education. I am

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla.]

really gratified, for it shows that greater interest is being taken on the subject. I am also grateful to the Director for doing something for Aided school teachers. One is the security of service. At one time teachers were very anxious about the security of their services. That situation has been considerably changed. They have a right of appeal and they know that their appeals will be heard. But that is only one aspect of the situation. The teacher, between the Government and the manager, is between the devil and the deep sea. The department insists on certain things. It insists, for example, that a class should have a certain number of pupils. I know how these teachers run about for pupils promising them pencils and presents out of their pockets. Now, it is the manager's responsibility to find the pupils. The Director, in accordance with his rules, says that grant will be withdrawn. The poor teacher is put to trouble. I have seen both Government schools and aided schools with roofs unthatched. I have seen rain pouring into these schools. It is the managers' responsibility to see that the schools are thatched properly. The grant-memo conditions say that unless the school is thatched, grant is not given. Accordingly, grant is not given and it is the teacher who suffers ultimately. I ask you, what is the teacher to do when the manager refuses to thatch the school building or when he cannot find the pupils to bring the number up to the standard. The problem therefore, is that in addition to the security of services, the teacher's interests, financial interests, have also to be safeguarded. I am sure that attention has been drawn to this, but as yet I fail to see any remedy being attempted. What I would suggest is that when a grant is sanctioned, let it be understood that the teacher gets the grant all right, but if the manager fails to put through the conditions, let the Department give notice to the manager that if he does not improve the situation, within a year or two, the recognition of the schools will be withdrawn.

Mr. A. Gopala Menon: May I ask whether the teacher does not go out of employment in that case?

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: Yes, Sir. Advise the teacher to go for war-work or to cultivate tapioca in some places instead of going about a starving man and teaching these children. I would rather the teacher cultivates tapioca or something like that and earns two or three rupees a month. Let the managers be punished for not discharging their responsibilities rather than the teachers. What I would suggest, therefore, is that a time must be given to the managers for rectifying their mistakes. You may deal with the managers as they deserve. But let the teachers have their

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

grant. After all it is only Rs. 8 per month. Say that if the conditions are not fulfilled, the recognition will be withdrawn. Instead, let the teacher get his salary and the manager lose his grant. In that case, the Government will be able to reduce the number of schools and will be able also to find where there are managers who can fulfil the requirements.

Then a word for the manager. The manager certainly has a place in the educational system of the country. Page 6 of the Report says that there are 1,014 departmental schools and 2,728 private schools and in page 172 of the Report which states about the financial system, it is said that 'For departmental schools, Government spends Rs. 3,72,463 while it gives a maintenance grant of Rs. 14,453.' Just note the difference. The same thing follows section after section. Now, the management has a place in the educational structure and we have to see that management is encouraged wherever it is prepared to fulfil conditions.

Let me, with my honourable friend ,Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi, repeat that a certain fee may be charged on those who can afford to pay. Because of the fact that the Government have made primary education free, we find the difficulty of the parents refusing to pay anything towards the working of the institution. I am very much interested in 96 primary schools. I have taken it on an experimental basis to see how far the people could be persuaded to interest themselves in the institutions. Now, they refuse to contribute a single anna towards the thatching or towards the equipping of the schools. That is, to my mind, because they have not been trained to pay for the education of their children. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor asked whether there was not a provision in the Educational Code for the payment of fees. Yes. But if you have understood the mind of the Travancore people, you will also understand that for four annas, they will make their children walk five miles a day. I shall give definite instances to the Director of Public Instruction that from a place like Kozhencherry, people send their children to schools at Ayroor and other places for a gain of four annas. Well, if the public will not respond to the request of men who are interested in education, I suggest that the Government should educate them to pay for their children's education. The poor children have to be looked after. But I do not see why a man who can afford 4 annas for the education of his children should not be asked to pay. If that system is introduced and the managers are provided with funds to a certain extent for the equipment of the schools, we may perhaps find a change, and a change for the better.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla.]

Then I want to say that the Department has done a great service in giving increased grants to all recognised primary schools. I hope that in the budget for the next year, provision is made for grants being given to all the recognised primary schools in the State. But even there, the Travancore Government, compared with the Cochin Government, takes a very miserly attitude. Even yesterday I got a letter from Cochin saying that "Government pay 14 annas for every rupee paid as salary to the teacher, the schools having no income. The management pays the balance of two annas. This is applicable only to vernacular schools where no fee is collected."

Mr. A. Gopala Menon: Here we are paying 16 annas for a rupee.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: But you do not pay Rs. 15 to a teacher. The same thing I have to say about Dearness Allowances. Here it was stated that the manager does not give any allowance. Again the same thing; the teacher suffers. The manager says he will not give anything and the Government also says the same thing. The result is that the teacher has to suffer. Is it not the responsibility of Government to see that the teachers who do such great service, not to a particular manager or a particular institution, but to the State in general, get some reward for the work they do?

President: The House will now adjourn and meet again at 12 noon tomorrow.

The House adjourned at 5-30 P. M.

B. PARAMU,
Secretary to the Sri Chitra State Council.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly